



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE PREPOSITION *AB* IN HORACE¹

By JOHN C. ROLFE

1. *The Form.*—Before considering the form of this preposition in Horace, a few general remarks on the subject are, I think, justified by the treatment of the question in our handbooks. Lindsay, *Lat. Lang.*, p. 577, says: "In Plautus *ab* is used before vowels and *j, s, r*; *a* before *b, p, m, f, v, c, q, g* (Labial and Guttural sounds); *abs* (and *a*) before *tu, tuus*, etc.; *ab* and *a* before *t, d, l, n*; in class. Lat. *ab* is used before vowels and *l, n, r, s, j*; *a* before *p, b, f, v*; *abs* before *c, q, t* (Cicero began with *abs te*, but discarded the expression for *a te*); in Late Latin *ab* is used before vowels, *a* before consonants." This statement is measurably correct, so far as Plautus is concerned; but in considering the classical period, nothing at all is said of *c, g*, and *m*, except the questionable statement about *abs* before *c*.² *Ab* is found in Caesar and

¹ This paper was presented at the meeting of the American Philological Association, at Madison, July 1900.

While it deals primarily with Horace's use of *ab*, I have given incidentally an outline of my theory of the syntax of the preposition, which in my article in the *Archiv für lateinische Lexikographie und Grammatik*, X, 487 ff., was shown only by the arrangement of the lexicon-article. Since the paper left my hands (in October 1900) it has been given an additional timeliness by the publication of Lommatzsch's article in the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, I, 1, in which a different outline is followed. If Lommatzsch's article had appeared before the present paper was written, I should have been somewhat more explicit, but I think that the plan of my lexicon-article will be clear, if it was not so before, in the light of the explanations which I have here given.

Since my former article was originally intended for the *Thesaurus* (see *Archiv*, X, p. 481), I feel that it is due myself to state that the Board of Editors, as finally constituted, decided that all the articles prepared from the 'Archiv-Zettel' should be rewritten, and based on the later collection of material which was made especially for the *Thesaurus*. For permission to make this explanation here I wish to express my gratitude to the editors of the *Harvard Studies*.

² *abs chorago* occurs in Early Latin (Plaut. *Pers.* 159), but I know of no other case of *abs* before *c*. Before *q*, *abs* occurs a few times in Early Latin—in Plaut., Ter., Auct. ad Her.

Livy before *p* and *f*, as well as in inscriptions of the ante-classical period, and before *v* in later inscriptions. The use of *ab* before *l, n, r, s*, and *j* is certainly not universal in the classical period, whatever limits be set to that somewhat elastic concept. The use of *ab* before vowels and *a* before consonants is not universal in Late Latin, nor is it confined to Late Latin, again making allowance for different views as to the meaning of the term.

To take but one other example, Schmalz, in the third edition of his *Lat. Syntax*,¹ although somewhat more accurate than Lindsay, leaves much to be desired in exactness and completeness. No clear line is drawn between the usage in Early Latin and that of the classical period, between that of inscriptions and that of the literature; and strangely enough, nothing is said of the use of *ab* before *s impurum* in Late Latin. As will appear below, an accurate and satisfactory statement must be based on a consideration of the usage in different periods, in different branches of literature, and in different writers.

The origin of the form *ā* must still be regarded as uncertain. For a discussion of the various theories see *Archiv für lat. Lex. u. Gramm.* X, 466 ff. The Romans themselves regarded *a* as a by-form of *ab*, and gradually developed the rule of using the former before all consonants, and the latter before vowels and *h*.² It is noteworthy that no example of *a* before *h* occurs in the literature or in inscriptions, although *h* appears to have had sufficient consonantal force in Early Latin to prevent hiatus and to make position.³

Abs (*ab* + *-s*) is used freely in Early Latin, but rarely except in the formula *abs te*. It becomes less and less frequent in the Ciceronian epoch, and practically disappears in the Augustan age, to be revived by the archaistic and ecclesiastical writers.⁴ It is not found in the poets of the classical period.

¹ In Müller's *Handbuch d. klass. Altertums-Wiss.* II³, p. 270.

² This rule is formally stated by Charis. 232, 21 K. and Dioned. 414, 13 K.

³ See Birt, *Rhein. Mus.* 1899, p. 40 ff. Lommatzsch cites one example, †C.I.L. XIII, 1601 *a hoc*, but apparently falsely.

⁴ It is used by Fronto, Gellius, Cyprian, Arnobius, Augustine, and others. Gell. has *abs re* twice (1, 26, 4 and 2, 2, 12), in which he is followed by Hieron. *Epist.* 121, 8 (p. 1024 Migne). Isolated cases of *abs re* are also found in *Cod. Just.* 7, 43, 8 and elsewhere in Late Latin. The Pseudo-Tert. has *abs* before a vowel in two cases (*Marc.* 4, 130; 5, 121).

The rule of using *ab* only before vowels and *h* was a gradual development, and the full application of the rule appears first in poetry, and would seem to be characteristic of the literary rather than of the colloquial language. Thus in Plautus *ab* is not found before the labials and gutturals, the exception in *Asin.* 118 *nec quo ab caveas aegrius* being only apparent, since the form *ab* is due to the anastrophe. The early inscriptions, however, offer not a few instances of *ab* in such positions,¹ as do Caesar, Cicero, Sallust, and especially Livy.

Terence is in harmony with Plautus in this regard. From the other ante-classical writers but little evidence can be drawn. Accius has *ab classe* (318, p. 205 R²), the only case of *ab* before a guttural or labial in poetry. Cato, *Agr.* 150, 2 has *ab coactore*, and the fragments of the early historians and orators furnish one case of *ab* before *c*.³ The last case is drawn from the pages of Livy, who freely uses *ab* before *c*, so that perhaps no great weight should be placed on it.

In the classical period⁴ we find a still greater divergence between the prose and the poetical usage. Catullus has but one example of *ab* before any consonant whatever — *ab semiraso*, 59, 5. He is followed by Tibullus, who has no cases (including the pseudo-Tibulliana), and by Propertius with but two — *ab litore*, 3, 9, 53; *ab zonis*, 4, 1, 108. Ovid has 10 deviations from the rule, of which 8 are in one formula,⁵ *ab Iove*.

Lucretius and Virgil use *ab* before consonants with more freedom, although not so freely as the prose writers of the same period. The difference between their usage and that of the poets mentioned above is doubtless due to their fondness for archaisms, and in part perhaps to the nature of their sources. On the usage of Lucr. see Woltjer, *A. L. L.* xi, 250. Virgil uses only *a* before labials, gutturals, *d*, and *n*. Before *r* he always has *ab*.⁶ Before the other consonants he uses *ab* for the most part in what may be called formulaic expressions.⁴ The

¹ See *C. I. L.* I, 200, 56; 200, 71; 199, 7; 199, 13; 1412; 569, etc.

² Val. Ant. ap. Liv. 44, 13, 12.

³ Say 80 B.C. to 17 A.D.

⁴ See below, p. 253 f.

⁵ *ab radice*, *Ge.* 1, 20; 2, 17; *Aen.* 12, 787; *ab radicibus*, *Ge.* 1, 319; *ab rupe*, *Aen.* 3, 647; *ab rege*, *Aen.* 11, 230.

only poets who use *ab* before *s impurum* are Lucretius and perhaps Virgil.¹

The prose writers of the same period use *ab* before consonants much more freely than the poets. Caesar has *ab* even before labials and gutturals (before *p*, 4 times; *m*, 8 times; *f* and *v*, once each; *c*, 22 times; *g*, 8 times). The same thing is true of Sallust, and as far as the gutturals are concerned, of Cicero. Livy uses *ab* freely before nearly all consonants, and the first prose writer who follows the rule of *ab* before vowels, and *a* before consonants, with substantial regularity is Seneca Rhetor.

In the Silver Age the poets show almost no cases of *ab* before consonants, and the only prose writers who offer any considerable number of exceptions are Pliny the Elder and Tacitus.

The revival of *ab* before consonants by the prose writers of the Golden Age, and the extension of its use to labials and gutturals would seem to be a conscious stylistic peculiarity, possibly due in some measure to the earlier writers whom they followed as sources. Exactly analogous is the revival of *abs*, and to some extent of the use of *ab* before consonants, in Late Latin.

Horace, as might be expected, follows the usage of Lucretius and Virgil rather than that of Catullus, Propertius, Tibullus, and Ovid. He uses *a* before consonants 20 times, and has *ab* 6 times, as follows:

- ab labore*, *Epod.* 17, 24; ²
- ab Iove*, *Carm.* 1, 28, 29;
- ab se*, *Carm.* 3, 5, 43;
- ab dis*, *Carm.* 3, 16, 22;
- ab Lamo*, *Carm.* 3, 17, 1;
- ab Iove*, *Epist.* 1, 12, 3.

The exceptions occur before *j*, *d*, *l*, *s*. Before *j* he has no cases of *a*. He has one each before *d*, *l*, and *s*: *a labris*, *Serm.* 1, 1, 68; *a domo*, *Carm.* 4, 5, 12; *a sole*, *Serm.* 1, 4, 29.

¹ Lucr. has *ab stellis*, 6, 720; *ab speculis*, 4, 288 (Cod. A, *av*; Cod. B, *a*). Cod. M. of Virgil gives *ab stirpe* in *Aen.* 1, 626; 7, 99; and 8, 130, and there is some evidence for *ab* before *s impurum* in other passages, though Ribbeck reads *a* in all cases.

² See below, p. 254.

It is interesting to note that with the exception of the one case in the *Epodes*, all the cases of *ab* before consonants occur in his later writings, and 4 of the 6 cases in the *Odes*. Two other writers, at least, show a varying usage in this respect at different stages of their literary careers. Cicero gradually discards the use of *ab* before consonants. Horace, on the contrary, seems to take up the use in his more highly developed style, though mainly, if not wholly, in special formulas.¹ The same thing is true of Tacitus, who uses *ab* before consonants most freely in the *Annals*. The *Dialogus* and the *Agricola* have one case each: *ab scholasticis controversiis*, *Dial.* 14, 24 (when cod. F has *a*), which may possibly be a forerunner of the later use of *ab* before *s impurum*.² The case in the *Agricola* is *ab legatione*, 9, 1, which may perhaps be regarded as formulaic. The three cases in the *Historiae* are all formulaic, being before the personal name *Julio*.³ The *Annals* have 33 cases, of which a large number are formulaic.

2. *The Formulas*.—I have shown, I think, in *A. L. L.* X, 468 ff. that the use of *ab* before consonants is particularly persistent in certain stereotyped formulas, and above all with personal and geographical names. Especially common is *ab Iove*, which, as has been said, occurs 8 times in Ovid, who otherwise shows almost absolute regularity. Virgil has the same expression 5 times, Cicero 3 times, Horace twice. Most striking of all, Quintilian, who has at most only 8 exceptions to 651 cases of the regular use of *a* before consonants,⁴ apparently wrote *ab Iove* in 10, 1, 25. *Ab dis* is also of frequent occurrence, being found, e. g. 15 times in Cicero and 5 times in inscriptions. These two formulas, with others of the same kind, may be explained from their use in religious rituals, which, as is well known, were especially conservative in their language.

The use of *ab* with personal and geographical names is less easy to account for, but seems to be beyond question. Thus Sallust has but two

¹ Professor Bennett has suggested to me that the sacred nature of lyric poetry leads to the retention (or adoption) of an archaic orthography. This seems highly probably, and the case of *ab* before consonants in the *Odes* will then belong to the same class as *ab Iove* (*Epist.* 1, 12, 3), *ab dis*, and the like.

² See below, p. 255.

³ 1, 42, 7; 1, 76, 5; 3, 84, 25.

⁴ See Hirt, *Prog. des Sophien-Gymnasiums zu Berlin*, 1900, p. 7.

cases of *ab* before *m*, and both are personal names.¹ Of four cases before *c*, three are with proper names.² The same coincidence is to be noted elsewhere; for example, in the *Histories* of Tacitus, as stated above.³ This usage persisted until very late; for instance, Lactantius and Ambrosius, who rarely use *ab* before any consonant except *s* *impurum*, have *ab Iohanne*, *Inst.* 4, 15, 1 and *ab Iordane*, *de Patriarchis*, 4, 24. *Ab re* is a very persistent formula, occurring, e. g. in Sen. Phil. *Ep.* 82, 18 (according to codd. V and P); Plin. *N. H.* 31, 43 and 34, 96; Suet. *Aug.* 94 and *Dom.* 11; Fronto, p. 134, 1 N; Ulpian, 5 times; Lact. *de Mort. Pers.* 1, 7; etc., etc.

A formula may also be characteristic of an individual writer, as, for example, Virgil has *ab sede* six times. Furthermore, analogy seems to play an important part; thus we have *ab re frumentaria* after *ab re*; *ab iustitia*, Cic. *Off.* 1, 63, and *ab iusto timore*, Hirt. *B. G.* 8, 48, 9, after *ab iure*, *ab iure iurando*, etc. It is true that absolute consistency is nowhere found, that *a dis* is found beside *ab dis*, *a Iove* beside *ab Iove*; but the same thing is true of other orthographical phenomena, of the various devices for indicating vowel length, of the assimilation of prepositions in composition, and the like.

As will be seen, a good number of Horace's uses of *ab* before consonants may be regarded as formulaic. In contrast with *ab Lamo* he has *a* before the personal names *Nerio*, *Serm.* 2, 3, 69, and *Fabricio*, *Serm.* 2, 3, 36. But *ab* before *f* is very rare, and before *n* it is used only by Lucretius of the classical poets. Moreover, Horace has no cases of *ab* before consonants in his *Sermones*, which may or may not be significant. See above, p. 253, footnote 1.

Ab se may also be regarded as formulaic, since it occurs quite frequently in writers who use *ab* before consonants but sparingly; e. g. Quint. 8, *præf.* 13 and (in a quotation from Cicero) in the *Orat. in Clod. et Cur.* fr. 111, 1 H.

As regards the text of Horace, editors are practically unanimous in reading *ab*, except in *Epod.* 17, 24, where I have given my reasons for preferring *ab labore* in the *Class. Rev.* xiv, p. 261.

¹ *ab Mario*, *Jug.* 102, 2; *ab Metello*, *Jug.* 64, 1.

² *ab Capsa*, *Jug.* 91, 3; *ab Cicerone*, *Cat.* 48, 9; *ab Ciria*, *Jug.* 82, 1.

³ Page 253.

In considering this whole question of the form of the preposition, it is of course important to make up one's mind to what extent our manuscripts are to be trusted in this particular. It seems entirely probable that, in accordance with the rule which was followed in later times,¹ the tendency of the copyists would be to write *a* before all consonants, and that accordingly *ab* would be changed to *a* in some cases. On the other hand, the reverse change was not likely to be made, and the cases of *ab* before consonants are therefore entitled to the preference due to the *lectio difficilior*.

A number of circumstances tend to increase our confidence in the conscientiousness of the scribes. Perhaps the most striking is the occurrence in Late Latin of *ab* before *s impurum*, first noted by Hausleiter in 1883,¹ in writers who otherwise very rarely use *ab* before consonants. This use was entirely overlooked by the Latin grammarians, but is confirmed by inscriptions, and by the literature as well, as the ecclesiastical writers gradually appear in trustworthy texts in the Vienna *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Romanorum*. Brandt and Laubmann, it is true, read *ab* but twice before *s impurum*, and *a* seven times, in their edition of Lactantius, but there is MS. authority for *ab* in all but one case, *a stultis*, *Inst.* 5, 12, 13. Schenkl, on the other hand, in his edition of Ambrosius, gives *ab* the preference due the *lectio difficilior*, and regularly reads *ab*, except in *de Noe*, 9, 28 *a stomacho*, where one codex reads *ad*, apparently for an original *ab*; and *de Interpell. Iob et David*, 1, 5, 13, where the MSS. are unanimous for *a scelere*.

Another striking point is the reappearance of *abs* already referred to,² and the persistence of certain formulas with *ab*: and in general a certain regularity in the use of *ab* at different epochs. On the whole it seems to me that the manuscript tradition is to be respected, allowing for some changes of *ab* to *a*.

3. *The Word Order*. — The original position of the preposition in Italic was after the governed word. Genuine anastrophe of *ab* is very rare, and occurs only in Early Latin. In classical Latin, as a rule, *a* or *ab* directly precedes the substantive which it governs. A modifying

¹ See the references to Char. and Diomed. above, p. 250.

² See *A. L. L.* III, 148; cf. X, 476 ff.

³ Above, p. 250.

adjective, pronoun, or substantive sometimes stands directly before *ab*, as *surgente a sole*, Hor. *Serm.* 1, 4, 29; *aequo ab Iove*, *Carm.* 1, 28, 29; *solis ab ortu*, *Carm.* 3, 27, 12. This order, though found in poetry as early as Accius,¹ is exceedingly rare in classical prose. It is found now and then in Cicero's prose, but only once in Caesar,² and but once in Livy.³ Horace sometimes inserts one or more words between the modifier and *ab*, as *dulci distinct a domo*, *Carm.* 4, 5, 12; Caesar *Hispana repetit penates* Victor *ab ora*, *Carm.* 3, 14, 4; *gemino bellum Troianum orditur ab ovo*, *A. P.* 147. This order is not at all uncommon in the classical poets, but is foreign to the prose of the same period. In some cases we find the substantive preceding the preposition and the modifier following, as *Hisperia sospes ab ultima*, *Carm.* 1, 36, 4; *auctore ab illo*, *Carm.* 3, 17, 5; *etc.* This order, which is found in the ante-classical and classical poets, does not make its way into prose before Tacitus.

4. *The Syntax.*—The greater number of the cases of *ab* in Horace belong to the simple and primitive use with verbs of motion, to indicate the point from which the action of the verb takes its beginning. This is found with verbs compounded with prepositions denoting motion from; viz. *ab-*, *de-*, and *re-*, and once with *e-*: *ab infimis eripiunt aequoribus ratis*, *Carm.* 4, 8, 31, a combination which is not at all rare; with verbs compounded with other prepositions, *suscitabo*, *processerit*; and with simple verbs, *ago*, *duco*, *fero*, *fugio*, *mano*, *migro*, *rapio*, *torqueo*, *volo*.

In the use of the preposition with names of towns and countries Horace shows great regularity. The following exceptions and apparent exceptions may be noted: *fugatis Latio tenebris*, *Carm.* 4, 4, 40, an omission of the preposition which is common enough in poetry. In *Epod.* 10, 13 *Pallas vertit iram ab Illo* in *Aiacis ratem*, and *gens quae cremato fortis ab Illo . . . pertulit*, *Carm.* 4, 4, 53, the country about the city is, as often, included, and in the second example the idea is perhaps rather that of time than of motion from. In *Serm.* 2, 1, 66 *duxit ab . . . Carthagine nomen*, the idea is not that of motion, but *duxit nomen* is an expression of naming, and as such regularly takes the preposition. Cf. *Serm.* 2, 4, 33 *ostrea Circeiis, Miseno oriuntur echini*,

¹ *Pract.* 12, p. 282 R.² *B. C.* 1, 15, 7.³ 21, 31, 6.

where the ablative, instead of the locative, is due to the meaning of the verb. In *capta classem reducere Troia*, *Serm.* 2, 3, 191, *capta Troia* is an abl. abs., denoting time.

With verbs meaning 'begin,' 'originate,' and the like we have regular constructions: *natus ab Inacho* (of remote ancestry), *Carm.* 2, 3, 21; *ab his maioribus orti*, *Serm.* 1, 5, 55; *auctore ab illo ducit originem*, *Carm.* 3, 17, 5; *ab alto demissum genus Aenea*, *Serm.* 2, 5, 63; *ab interitu Meleagri . . . gemino . . . orditur ab ovo*, *A. P.* 147; and with an easy ellipsis, *vetusto nobilis ab Lamo*, *Carm.* 3, 17, 1. The close connection with the construction with verbs of motion is seen in the third and fourth examples.

With verbs meaning 'seek,' 'receive,' 'hear,' and the like, we have: *a te deponco*, *Serm.* 1, 2, 69; *duxit ab oppressa Carthagine nomen*, *Serm.* 2, 1, 66; *ab ipso audieris*, *Serm.* 2, 8, 32. Here the connecting link is seen in the second example. Under this head belong also: *a me ferret*, *Epist.* 2, 2, 13; *ab dis feret*, *Carm.* 3, 16, 22.

The peculiar use of *ab* with verbs which refer to banking and other financial transactions is illustrated by *Serm.* 2, 3, 69 scribe decem *a Nerio*. To take *a Nerio* as an abl. of the agent with a verb understood, as some editors do, is entirely unnecessary, as will be clear from a comparison with the examples cited in *A. L. L.* X, 492 f.

The so-called abl. of the agent with *ab* denoted originally the person from whom the action of the verb proceeded. Horace offers but few peculiarities in this construction. *Ab* is used with a collective noun in *Serm.* 1, 7, 22 *ridetur ab omni conventu*, where a personal subject is doubtless to be understood. *Ab* is perhaps used in this construction with the name of an animal in *Serm.* 2, 2, 10 *equo lassus ab indomito*; but it seems decidedly preferable to take *equo ab indomito* in a temporal sense.

Ab is also used with verbs which do not imply motion, to denote the place where anything is, stands, or lies. The Romans, by a peculiar idiom, conceived the object as the place *whence* the action of the verb was directed, but no idea of motion is felt in the corresponding English expressions. Thus *a dextera* (*dextra*), 'on the right,' etc. This use appears to be entirely lacking in Horace. The only possible example is *Carm.* 3, 27, 58 *potes hac ab orno pendulum laedere collum*. The construction with *pendeo* seems to form a connecting link between this

and the preceding type, the idea of the place *from which* being more clearly present to the mind than, e. g. in Varr. *R. R.* 1, 24, 3 (arbores) ponuntur *a septentrionali parte*. A glance at some of the uses of *pendeo* will make this clear. E. g. Virg. *Ge.* 3, 53 *crurum tenuis a mento* palearia pendent, where *a mento* is most naturally translated 'from the chin.' Cf. also Cic. *Verr.* 2, 4, 74 *sagittae pendebant ab humero*; Virg. *Aen.* 5, 484 *columbam malo suspendit ab alto*, etc., etc.

Again *ab* is used with verbs like *abesse*, *distare*, *dividi*, etc., to denote, not motion from, but an interval existing between two objects. This is in the main a distinct and clearly marked usage, but overlaps the first mentioned construction in some cases. Thus in *Serm.* 2, 5, 83 *ut canis, a corio* numquam absterrebitur *uncto*, we clearly have the idea of 'driving away,' and hence of motion from; but in *Serm.* 1, 4, 111 *a turpi amore* cum deterreret, the idea is not of driving away, but of holding aloof from. Other examples of this construction in Horace are *Carm.* 4, 5, 12 *distinet a domo*; *Serm.* 2, 2, 53 *sordidus a tenui victu* distabit; *Serm.* 2, 3, 320 *a te* non multum abludit; *Carm.* 3, 3, 47 *secernit Europen ab Afro*; *Carm.* 3, 19, 1 *quantum distet ab Inacho* Coelus. This is usually the force with verbs meaning 'defend' and 'protect,' and with the verbal adjective *tutus*:

Besides being joined to verbs, we find *ab* and the abl. depending on substantives.¹ The use is a comparatively rare one (for examples see *A. L. L.* X, 498 f.), and there is always a more or less conscious ellipsis of a verbal idea. Horace seems to have but one genuine case — *Carm.* 1, 9, 22 *gratus puellae risus ab angulo*. To this two other cases might perhaps be added: *Epod.* 17, 24 *nullum ab labore* me reclinat *otium*; *Serm.* 1, 6, 88 *laus illi debetur et a me gratia* maior. In the latter case *a me* may be taken with *debetur*, but both the sense of the passage and the word order suggest a close connection with *gratia*.

The use of *ab* with adjectives is frequent in Latin. I have already treated *sanus ab illis* (vitiis), *Serm.* 1, 4, 129; *pudicum ab omni facto turpi*, *Serm.* 1, 6, 82; and *ab omni parte* beatum, *Carm.* 2, 16, 27; in the *Classical Rev.* XIII, 303 f. and XIV, 126 f. Parallel with the first two is *vix una sospes navis ab ignibus*, *Carm.* 1, 37, 13; but in *Hesperia*

¹ Verbal substantives are not taken into consideration, since they, like verbal adjectives, properly belong with verbs.

sospes ab ultima, *Carm.* 1, 36, 4, the idea is a different one, and we may best assume the ellipsis of a verb meaning 'come' or 'return.' In *Ajax heros ab Achille secundus*, *Serm.* 2, 3, 193 we have a somewhat common use with numerals and words of kindred signification, to indicate the rank or position which a person or thing occupies. So Plaut. *Pseud.* 597 *septimas aedis a portu*; Varr. *R. R.* 3, 2, 14 *ad quartum vicesimum lapidem a Roma*; Virg. *Buc.* 5, 49 *tu eris alter ab illo*.

The use of *ab* and the abl. to denote time came originally from the idea of motion from or separation, but appears fully developed in the earliest literature. We may distinguish two uses: *ab* with the abl. denotes the beginning of an action which extends over a more or less long interval of time. The duration of the act is sometimes, but not always, indicated by an adverb like *iam*, *inde*, *usque*. *Ab* in this use corresponds to Gk. ἀπό, Germ. von . . . an, Eng. 'from.' E.g. Plaut. *Aul.* 538 *an audiisti? usque a principio omnia*. Or *ab* designates a momentary action, like Gk. μετά, Germ. nach, Eng. 'after,' the momentary nature of the action being sometimes indicated by an adverb like *statim*, *continuo*, *ilico*. E.g. Ter. *Heaut.* 214 *aequom censent nos a pueris ilico nasci senes*. Horace has two examples which show the connection with the construction with verbs of motion: *Serm.* 1, 6, 93 *si natura iuberet a certis annis aevum remeare peractum*; *Carm.* 4, 4, 53 *gens quae cremato fortis ab Illo . . . pertulit Ausonias ad urbes*. Other examples are: *Serm.* 1, 4, 97 *me Capitolinus convictore usus . . . a puero est*; *Serm.* 1, 3, 6 *ab ovo usque ad mala citaret*; *Epist.* 2, 1, 62 *numeratque poetas ad nostrum tempus Livi scriptoris ab aevo*; *Epist.* 2, 2, 185 *ad umbram lucis ab ortu . . . mitiget agrum*.

The suggestion of Keller, *Epilegomena*, p. 532, that *ab ipsis Saturnalibus*, *Serm.* 2, 3, 4, is an example of the temporal use of *ab* is a most extraordinary one. *Ab* may mean 'from (the time of)' or 'after,' but I know of no case in which it means 'at the time of.' In support of his view Keller quotes *a puero*, *Serm.* 1, 4, 97; *a certis annis*, *Serm.* 1, 6, 94; and Cic. *de Orat.* 2, 89 *vix intercesserat ab hoc sermone*. Further comment is unnecessary. I should read *at ipsis Saturnalibus*. See *Class. Rev.* xiv, p. 127.

Horace probably has a case of the rare causal use of *ab* and the abl. in *Serm.* 1, 4, 26, when I should read *aut ab avaritia* *aut misera ambitione laborat*. See *Class. Rev.* XIV, p. 126.

Ab with the abl. is often used absolutely, i. e. it is not governed by a verb, substantive, or adjective, but stands in a somewhat loose adverbial relation to the sentence in which it occurs, or to some word in the sentence. E. g. Plaut. *Ep.* 623 usque *ab unguiculo* ad capillum summumst festiuissima. Horace has four cases of this use: *Epist.* 2, 2, 4 hic candidus et talos *a vertice* pulcher ad imos; *Serm.* 2, 3, 308 *ab imo* ad summum totus moduli bipedalis; *Serm.* 1, 4, 29 hic mutat merces *surgente a sole* ad eum quo vespertina tepet regio; and *Epist.* 1, 1, 54 haec Ianus *summus ab imo* prodocet, where *summus ab imo* is equivalent to *a summo ad imum*; cf. *A. P.* 254 primus ad extremum similis sibi, and *Ov. Ibis* 179 iugeribusque novem summus qui distat ab imo.